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9. — *Essays on Philosophical Writers and other Men of Letters.* 2 vols. *Letters to a Young Man, and Other Papers.* 1 vol. By THOMAS DE QUINCEY. Boston: Ticknor, Reed, & Fields. 1854. 16mo. pp. 292, 291, 300.

It remains yet to be seen whether De Quincey can write what deserves not to be read and kept. To our fancy, the refuse of his *escri-toir* must be, like the sweepings of a goldsmith's shop, worthy of the most careful sifting. However this may be, the issue of the American publishers, extending through fifteen volumes, and in these last three embracing many of the pieces commonly called fugitive, has not yet ceased to be auriferous. De Quincey constantly amazes us by the amount and diversity of his learning. He manifestly often writes less from interest in his nominal subject than for the sake of throwing out a miscellaneous series of erudite reminiscences and lucubrations; yet so perfect is his tact in finding, or rather making, a place for every thing, that, while inviting, he eludes the charge of pedantry. We might, did our limits permit, specify two or three of the minor papers in the volumes now before us, which are absolutely loaded down with the life-spoils of their author's scholarship, yet carry their burden as lightly as our bodies sustain the weight of the circumambient atmosphere.

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10. — *Epic of the Starry Heavens.* THOMAS L. HARRIS. New York: Partridge & Brittan. 1854. 24mo. pp. 210.

MR. HARRIS dictated this poem in a state of entire unconsciousness as to surrounding objects, and it is well adapted to induce such a state in the reader. It was spoken in fourteen consecutive days, from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty lines being dictated at each session; and if any one should make trial of its efficacy as an opiate, we would recommend that it be taken in similar instalments. It is the work of certain spiritual beings, who made Mr. Harris their medium; and, combined with numerous other disclosures from similar sources, it might authorize the belief that the spiritual life is a retrograde career as to all the elements of intellectual culture and wisdom. Especially are we strengthened in this conclusion, when we are told that the poem emanated from "a circle of *Mediæval* Spirits," and